

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3410
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
COMBATING BLINDNESS
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that India is one of the most effected country in blindness in the world ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of blind persons in the country, State-wise;
- (d) the financial assistance provided to tackle this problem during the last three years till date, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the growing problem of blindness?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a): There are estimated about 12.14 million blind persons in the country.
- (b): The main causes of blindness are - Cataract, Uncorrected Refractive Errors, Corneal Opacity and Glaucoma.
- (c): A Statement showing number of blind persons (State-wise) is enclosed as Annexure-I.
- (d): A Statement showing details of funds released to States/UTs under National Programme for Control of Blindness during last three years is enclosed as Annexure-II.
- (e): The steps taken under National Programme for Control of Blindness to check the growing problem of blindness are as under:-
 1. Setting up of State Blindness Control Societies and District Blindness Control Societies in States/UTs.
 2. Providing Eye care facilities to the needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology
 3. Strengthening of Eye Banks in Government/ Voluntary Sector.
 4. Financial support to NGOs for strengthening of their existing infrastructure for Eye care.
 5. Organizing Eye Donation Fortnight every year from 25th August to 8th September.
 6. Screening of school children for detection of refractive errors and providing free glasses to poor children.
 - 7 Strengthening of Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology by providing assistance for development of paediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units and training infrastructure.
 8. Strengthening of Medical Colleges by providing assistance for development of paediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units.
 9. Imparting training to Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Hospitals/ Medical Colleges in various specialties of ophthalmology.
 10. Intensification of IEC activities.

Annexure-I

Estimated Blind Persons in India-2001-04

State	Census Population 2001*	Prevalence of Estimated Blind Persons Blindness (Survey 2001- 04)
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ANDAMAN & NICOBAR*	356265	1.10	3919
ANDHRA PRADESH	75727541	1.42	1075331
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1091117	2.28	24877
ASSAM	26638407	3.05	812471
BIHAR	82878796	0.78	646455
CHANDIGARH*	900914	1.01	9099
CHHATTISGARH	20795956	1.61	334815
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI*	220451	1.07	2359
DAMAN & DIU*	158059	1.07	1691
DELHI	13782976	1.13	155748
GOA	1343998	1.52	20429
GUJARAT	50596992	1.07	541388
HARYANA	21082989	1.89	398468
HIMACHAL PRADESH	6077248	0.70	42541
JAMMU & KASHMIR	10069917	1.61	162126
JHARKHAND	26909428	1.41	379423
KARNATAKA	52733958	1.78	938664
KERALA	31838619	0.56	178296
LAKSHADWEEP*	60595	1.10	667
MADHYA PRADESH	60385118	1.16	700467
MAHARASHTRA	96752247	0.95	919146
MANIPUR	2388634	1.38	32963
MEGHALAYA	2306069	0.74	17065
MIZORAM	891058	0.78	6950
NAGALAND	1988636	1.05	20881
ORISSA	36706920	1.40	513897
PONDICHERRY*	973829	0.78	7596
PUNJAB	24289296	1.01	245322
RAJASTHAN	56473122	1.55	875333
SIKKIM	540493	0.65	3513
TAMIL NADU	62110839	0.78	484465
TRIPURA	3191168	0.77	24572
UTTAR PRADESH	166052859	0.94	1560897
UTTRANCHAL	8479562	0.56	47486
WEST BENGAL	80221171	1.19	954632
TOTAL	1027015247	1.10	12143952

* Source: Census of India 2001

ANNEXURE-II

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CONTROL OF BLINDNESS EXPENDITURE TO STATES/U.Ts AS CASH, KIND GIA TO DBCS/SBCS/NGOs

States/ UTs	2002-2003				2003-2004			
	Cash Grants	GIA to DBC's	Kind	Total assista nce	Cash Grant	GIA to DBC's/ Release	Kind	Total Assistanc e
	Release	Release			Release	Release		
MAIOR STATES								
Rs. in lakhs								
Andhra Pr.	523.30	211.06	100.46	834.82	15.00	335.92	99.51	450.43
Bihar	41.30	91.50	25.17	157.97	10.00	220.00	27.88	257.88
Chhatisgar h	37.80	70.00	57.43	165.23	10.00	116.00	60.59	186.59
Goa	5.00	0.00	5.52	10.52	5.00	13.25	9.84	28.09
Gujarat	41.60	127.48	62.37	231.45	15.00	279.07	83.38	377.45
Haryana	12.80	0.21	32.35	45.36	10.00	77.76	60.14	147.90
Himachal Pr.	8.00	23.22	22.89	54.11	10.00	66.25	21.97	98.22
J & K	8.00	26.14	32.65	66.79	10.00	59.25	25.25	94.50
Jharkhand	20.10	64.03	34.44	118.57	10.00	128.75	22.54	161.29
Karnataka	42.90	308.53	16.87	368.30	20.00	411.89	219.86	651.75
Kerala	10.00	93.12	50.10	153.22	10.00	167.98	75.63	253.61
Madhya Pr.	177.80	362.90	126.59	667.29	15.00	386.82	55.34	457.16
Maharashtr a	201.50	191.50	234.15	627.15	15.00	404.50	104.43	523.93
Orissa	123.80	169.00	32.00	324.80	15.00	248.25	38.93	302.18
Punjab	14.10	50.04	125.11	189.25	10.00	103.50	23.05	136.55
Rajasthan	125.40	305.00	96.53	526.93	15.00	238.75	74.26	328.01
Tamil Nadu	425.43	1076.48	151.12	1653.03	15.00	1417.55	62.74	3495.29
Uttar Pr.	383.57	494.94	184.69	1063.20	15.00	759.83	226.61	1001.44
Uttarancha l	35.00	65.00	15.02	115.02	10.00	87.50	41.13	138.63
West Bengal	40.30	182.27	82.55	305.12	15.00	303.75	67.74	385.99
Total	2277.70	3912.42	1488.01	7678.13	250.00	5826.57	1400.32	7476.89
Arunachal	4.00	10.12	2.10	16.22	4.00	10.63	19.41	34.04

Pr								
Assam	5.35	30.27	0.08	35.70	10.00	89.50	7.59	107.09
Manipur	4.00	11.85	4.28	20.13	4.00	21.15	2.69	27.84
Meghalaya	4.00	11.84	9.28	25.12	4.00	14.90	14.49	33.39
Mizoram	9.35	18.32	4.05	31.72	4.00	13.38	7.75	25.13
Nagaland	4.00	16.62	2.60	23.22	4.00	10.50	0.68	15.18
Sikkim	4.50	15.74	0.32	20.56	3.00	6.25	7.11	16.36
Tripura	6.00	21.51	12.37	39.88	6.00	36.50	12.21	54.71
Total	41.20	136.27	35.09	212.56	39.00	202.81	71.93	313.74
Uts								
A&N	1.50	0.00	0.09	1.59	3.00	3.50	0.80	7.30
Islands								
Chandigarh	1.50	5.00	3.57	10.07	3.00	6.38	10.20	19.58
D&N Haveli	1.50	1.50	1.16	4.16	2.00	3.50	2.37	7.87
Daman &	3.00	1.00	0.97	4.97	2.00	3.50	0.21	5.71
Diu								
Delhi	0.00	21.34	0.96	22.30	10.00	22.77	16.09	48.86
Lakshadeep	1.50	0.00	0.06	1.56	2.00	3.50	0.54	6.04
Pondicherr	1.50	0.00	0.54	2.04	1.50	6.38	5.22	13.10
y								
Total	10.50	28.64	7.35	46.69	23.50	49.53	35.43	108.46
				525.06				662.63
Grand	2329.40	4077.53	1530.44	8462.43	312.50	6078.91	1507.68	8561.71
Total								

2004-2005#

	Cash Grants		GIA to DBCS/SBCS /NGOs	Kind	Total assistance
	Release	Exp.	Release		
Andhra Pr.	35.21	7.50	252.98	37.67	325.86
Bihar	38.38	0.90	17.00	16.62	72.00
Chhatisgarh	67.28	136.34	175.00	35.24	277.52
Goa	15.50	11.00	3.00	2.79	21.29
Gujarat	60.50	5.41	293.47	110.26	464.23
Haryana	12.87	20.43	99.84	47.41	160.12
Himachal	11.36	3.67	0.00	91.64	
Pr.					
J & K	149.26	0.91	0.00	38.95	103.00
Jharkhand	101.43	6.02	67.00	1.35	188.21
Karnataka	97.78	57.57	396.18	5.51	169.78
Kerala	64.27	9.70	115.44	14.38	499.47
Madhya Pr.	264.57	30.98	581.61	33.79	194.09
Maharashtra	47.31	13.14	271.62	32.60	879.349
Orissa	170.15	4.93	105.67	63.19	351.53
Punjab	11.43	0.00	0.00	11.63	344.05
Rajasthan	236.07	13.73	350.00	16.51	23.06
Tamil Nadu	295.54	225.03	997.82	16.82	602.58
Uttar Pr.	368.74	0.00	406.18	228.82	1310.18
Uttaranchal	76.10	15.45	32.00	2.14	1003.74
West					
Bengal	37.97	9.97	11.49	73.14	110.14
Total	2161.76	889.48	4176.32	884.96	7223.04
Arunachal	4.22	2.00	37.50	4.15	45.87
Pr					
Assam	10.97	0.00	17.52	19.53	48.02
Manipur	8.60	0.00	0.00	3.94	12.54
Meghalaya	2.60	10.23	35.00	1.89	39.49
Mizoram	9.28	2.00	0.00	1.88	11.16
Nagaland	8.50	22.96	0.00	4.75	13.25
Sikkim	4.84	3.65	0.00	1.35	6.19
Tripura	11.90	9.13	0.00	12.44	24.34
Total	60.91	49.97	90.02	49.93	200.86
Uts					
A&N	4.89	2.28	1.00	0.33	6.22
Islands					
Chandigarh	7.38	3.97	4.05	0.53	11.96
D&N Haveli	1.05	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.05
Daman &	6.05	1.60	0.00	0.19	6.24
Diu					
Delhi	13.68	11.68	32.43	1.96	48.07
Lakshadeep	1.02	0.00	3.00	0.45	4.47
Pondicherry	5.02	6.34	3.00	0.01	8.03

Total	39.09	25.97	43.48	3.47	86.04
					1210.16
Grand	2261.76	965.42	4309.82	938.36	8720.10
Total					

#Provisional

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